

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Charles
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
Araby			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Md. Rte. 425 & 244 224 225			
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of/			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Mason's Springs		First	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Charles	017

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME	
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Cline	
Add. and Mrs. Frank Jack Fletcher (Telephone 743-5230)	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Araby St. 4, Box 4422 Box 68	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Mason's Springs La Plata Indianhead	Maryland
	20640
	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	
Charles County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	
STATE:	
CODE:	
La Plata	Maryland
	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY:	
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
Maryland Historical Trust	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
2525 Riva Road	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:
Annapolis	Maryland
	21404
	24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Charles
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Although late Federal in its exterior appearance, Araby is actually a mid-eighteenth century house that was extensively altered in the mid-nineteenth century. The initial stage was a one story, five bay gambrel roofed, Flemish bond brick structure. Two chimneys were enclosed within each end wall (east and west) and there is a moulded brick watertable at the base of all four elevations. The windows have gauged brick lintels and there was a wood, modillioned eave cornice. (A small section of this cornice is preserved under the roof of the existing, mid-nineteenth century, north elevation entrance porch.) The interior plan of this first stage, retained when the house was altered, consisted of four rooms and a short rear stair hall. This plan is fairly typical of Southern Maryland architecture dating from circa 1720 to circa 1780. The Great (southeast) Room has all four wall surfaces sheathed with fielded panels and has two shell alcoves flanking the fireplace. The reeded mantle in this room constitutes its only nineteenth century alteration. The other rooms have both paneled fireplace walls and dados and the fireplaces in two instances have moulded surrounds. The stair has simple, turned banisters and a black walnut rail.

In the mid-nineteenth century the roof was raised to a full two story height. The English bond brickwork of these wall extensions contrasts with the Flemish bond of the original walls, making the cornice line and the roof profile of this first stage easily discernable. The one decidedly Federal characteristic evidenced on the exterior is the bridging (or joining by a curtain) of the chimney stacks at each end. Other Federal period influences can be observed in the brick, denticulated eave cornice of both the front (south) and rear (north) facades and the short, projecting brick water lip over the main entrance door of the south facade where a flat roofed porch is believed to have stood.

At the west end of the house stands a frame hyphen connecting the house to a one story brick wing. Presumably the brick wing, positioned at a right angle to the main block, was initially used as a detached summer kitchen. The later hyphen contains a modern kitchen and a roofed porch with fluted columns and stone paved floor.

On the grounds are several interesting domestic dependencies, large plantings of boxwood, and an interesting rose garden. At a distance of approximately five hundred yards from the northeast corner of the main house stood an eighteenth century grist mill. Dating circa 1760-80 it was, until destroyed several years ago because of its proximity to a state highway, the earliest surviving example of this type of architecture in lower Southern Maryland. The stone foundation wall of this three story frame structure still exist, as does parts of the original machinery and the mill stones.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Araby was the home of William and Sarah Eilbeck who's daughter Anne married George Mason (also a Charles Countain), author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and builder of Gunston Hall in Virginia. It is believed that George and Anne made Araby their home until the completion of Gunston Hall and made lengthly, periodic stays here afterwards. Their son, William inherited Araby upon the death of his grandmother and it was for him that the nearby Mason's Springs was named. George Washington recorded many visits to Araby in his diaries, most of them occuring while visiting a nearby property he owned.

As a mid-eighteenth century example of vernacular domestic architecture Araby is important in that despite the major renovation previously discussed it retains a significant amount of original interior and exterior fabric intact. In a region where few examples of such structures have survived unaltered Araby is found to be of particular interest, most notably for its simple but sophisticated interior treatment, the preservation of various construction features, and as an example of a type of house erected by persons of a relatively high position within the socio-economic class levels of mid-and-late-eighteenth century Charles County.

Because of these aspects of its architectural merit and direct association with such historically prominent personalities as George Mason and George Washington it is felt that Araby deserves further attention through both academic study and historic preservation and stands today as an important physical lesson in both local, state, and national history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles County Land and Probate Records. Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland

Fitzpatrick, John C. (ed). The Diaries of George Washington 1748-1799.
4 vols. reprint of the 1925 edition. New York: Kraus Reprint
Company, 1971.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown and P. Dennis Brown. History of Charles County.
La Plata, Maryland: n.p., 1958.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38 ° 34 ' 50 "	77 ° 07 ' 05 "				
NE	38 ° 34 ' 41 "	77 ° 06 ' 36 "				
SE	38 ° 34 ' 37 "	77 ° 06 ' 39 "				
SW	38 ° 34 ' 38 "	77 ° 07 ' 05 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 74 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
J. Richard Riyoire	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Maryland Historical Trust	March 13, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER:	
2525 Riva Road	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Annapolis	Maryland
	CODE
	24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout, IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date March 30, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

CH-11

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Araby		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Charles	Mason's Springs
STREET AND NUMBER		
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
Port Tobacco Quadrangle U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map	1966	1:24000
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.		

GPO 932-010

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Araby		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Charles	Mason's Springs
STREET AND NUMBER		
425 & 244 3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of Md. Rte./		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Michael Bourne	1968	Maryland Historical Trust
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Southwest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

CH-11


(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Araby		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Maryland	Charles	Mason's Springs
STREET AND NUMBER		
3/4 mi. E. on private road from Md. Rte. 425, 1/2 mi. S. of intersection of Md. Rte./ 425 & 244		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Michael Bourne	1968	Maryland Historical Trust
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Southwest

GPO 932-009



1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Charles County TOWN Mason Springs VIGNINITY STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY CH - 11	
ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Frank Jack Fletcher PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES 2		2. NAME Araby DATE OR PERIOD c. 1720 STYLE Colonial & Federal ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE OPEN TO PUBLIC NO	
<p> "Araby" is a two-story brick building, five bays long and three bays deep. Originally, the house was a 1-1/2 story building. The second story was added in the mid-nineteenth century. The mid-nineteenth century brickwork is laid in common bond, beneath which the bond is Flemish. There is a basement and a molded water-table. Above the windows of the first floor level are lintels of gauged brick. The second floor level windows also have lintels, but the brick is not gauged. Above the door there is strange short, one brick, string course which presumably was the location of a nineteenth-century porch. The sash are of nineteenth century date and are 9 over 6 on the first floor and 6 over 6 on the second. There are louvered shutters throughout. The cornice is of brick and has dentils. There are double chimneys at each end and the roof is nearly flat between them. There is a frame hyphen and a brick wing. The hyphen contains a covered porch with fluted columns and large square paving stones. It also houses the kitchen. The windows of the brick wing have lintels of brick and 6 over 6 sash. The wing stands at a right angle to the main structure. </p> <p> The center door of the main section opens into a hall, now used as a living room. This room is panelled to the ceiling on four (continued on page 2) </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>  6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) </div> <div> 7. PHOTOGRAPH </div> </div>			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. See Page 2		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael O. Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD March 14, 1968	

walls and has arched cabinets on each side of the fireplace. The fireplace reeded mantel is of a later date than the panelling. The dining room is behind the hall. The other rooms have panelled fireplace walls and panelled dados. The staircase rises in a small passage between the two rooms to the rear. The staircase handrail is made of black walnut. There are several interesting out-buildings.

A Maryland Historical Society marker reads:

"

Araby

The widow Eilbeck, mentioned in Washington's Diary, lived here. Her daughter, Ann Eilbeck, married Col. George Mason of Gunston Hall, Virginia. Araby built about 1700.

"

Item 8: Published Sources

Forman, Henry Chandler

Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland,
1934 - page 72

Wilson, Everett B.

Maryland's Colonial Mansions and other Early Homes,
1965 - page 210

POTOMAC RIVER
Chapman Landing
Chapman Point

4276

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967 O 345-100

35'

CH-11

lat 38° 34' 60"
long. 77° 07' 05"

lat. 38° 34' 38"
long. 77° 07' 05"



Araby

lat. 38° 34' 41"
long. 77° 06' 36"

Millards Mill

lat. 38° 34' 37"
long. 77° 06' 39"

4271

MARBLE GROVE



~~SM 47~~ WESTON ARABY CH-11



ch 11 p. 60 39%

~~SM 47~~

~~WESTON~~ ARABY CH-16

Charles County

D

Please Credit to:

Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, MD. 21401